

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 9, and 12 as follows:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Previously Presented) Method for producing a radially outward protruding holding projection of a plain bearing shell for supporting an engine crankshaft or camshaft or a connecting rod bearing shell of an engine, wherein the holding projection is formed in the region of a separating surface of the plain bearing shell, characterized in that a counter-holding means having an essentially flat holding surface is held against the separating surface of the plain bearing shell, that through the holding force in essentially the opposite direction material is deformed at the outside of the plain bearing shell compressively toward the separating surface, and thus radially outward as well.

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a plain bearing shell having a radially outward protruding holding projection, comprising the steps of:

providing a plain bearing shell having an outer surface and a separating surface;

providing a counter-holding mechanism having an essentially flat holding surface;

holding the essentially flat holding surface of the counter-holding mechanism against the separating surface; and

deforming material of the plain shell bearing in the region of the outer surface, adjacent the separating surface, in a direction that is substantially tangential to the outer surface and toward the separating surface, to create the radially outward protruding holding projection.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a plain bearing shell having a projection, comprising:

providing a plain bearing shell having a curved outer surface and a separating surface;

positioning the separating surface against a flat holding surface of a first counter-holding mechanism; and

stamping the curved outer surface in a direction toward the separating surface, to create the projection.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, where the curved outer surface comprises a steel support layer that is struck during the step of stamping to form the projection.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, where the stamping of the outer surface comprises stamping the outer surface with a stamping tool comprising a concave stamping surface that contacts the curved outer surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, where the stamping tools strikes the curved outer surface while moving in a direction perpendicular to the flat holding surface.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, where the separating surface and flat holding surface are parallel.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, comprising placing a second counter holding

mechanism in contact with a bearing metal layer of the plain bearing shell prior to the step of stamping to hold the plain bearing shell in place for the step of stamping.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a plain bearing shell having a radial projection, comprising:

providing a plain bearing shell having a curved outer surface and a separating surface;

positioning the separating surface against a flat holding surface of a first counter-holding mechanism; and

stamping the outer surface in a direction that is substantially tangential to the outer surface and toward the separating surface, to create the radial projection by compressing material of the plain bearing shell towards the separating surface.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, where the outer surface comprises a steel support layer that is struck during the step of stamping to form the projection .

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, where the stamping of the outer surface comprises stamping the outer surface with a stamping tool comprising a concave stamping surface that contacts the outer surface.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, where the stamping tool strikes the outer surface in a direction perpendicular to the flat holding surface.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, where the separating surface and flat holding

surface are parallel.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, comprising placing a second counter holding mechanism in contact with a bearing metal layer of the plain bearing shell prior to the step of stamping to hold the plain bearing shell in place for the step of stamping.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, where the stamping tool comprises a sharp cutting edge that shallowly penetrates the outer surface.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, where the stamping tool strikes the outer surface with a force sufficient for the stamping tool to displace material of the outer surface 0.5-2mm in the radial direction.